

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES EIGHT "REAL D.E.A.L." SCHOOLS, STATEWIDE EXPANSION OF DONORSCHOOSE NC WEBSITE PROGRAM

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley today recognized eight schools across the state that ranked at the top in their region in student performance and teacher working conditions and presented them the first Real D.E.A.L. (Dedicated Educators, Administrators and Learners) Awards. Easley also announced that DonorsChoose NC, a website that allows teachers to seek donations by posting proposals on-line for classroom supplies and innovative projects, is expanding statewide.

"More than 34,000 teachers and administrators responded to the Teacher Working Conditions survey this year, representing 90 percent of schools and all 115 districts in the state," Easley said. "The eight schools that received the Real D.E.A.L. Awards rose to the top and were voted the best for teacher working conditions and student performance."

"These schools provide time for teachers to do their jobs, have supportive school leadership, provide quality professional development and empower teachers to make decisions about their schools. They have also been recognized as Honors Schools of Excellence, the highest level of academic achievement for a school. These schools serve as state and national examples because the teachers, administrators and students are working to be the best."

The eight Real D.E.A.L. Award winners are Brevard Elementary in Transylvania County, Broad Creek Middle School in Carteret County, Eastover Elementary in Cumberland County, North Brook Elementary in Lincoln County, North Ridge Elementary in Wake County, Weeksville Elementary in Pasquotank County, Wentworth Elementary in Rockingham County and West Lenoir Elementary in Caldwell County.

Easley said the Southeast Center for Teaching Quality, which is analyzing results from the 2004 Teacher Working Conditions Survey, has already determined that the survey can help predict student achievement and teacher turnover rates at the school level.

"This is an important finding, and one that will have tremendous impact on decisions we make about improving schools and attracting and keeping quality teachers," Easley said. The Center will release interim findings later in the day and complete its full analysis in January 2005.

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